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SOURCE Promyshlennost' Stroitel'nykh Materialov.

SUPREME SOVIET RSFSR CRITICIZES
ITS CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS INDUSTRY

At the 1952 spring session of the Supreme Soviet RSFSR, the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry RSFSR was severely criticized for its failure to expand the production of local building materials more extensively and for its failure to study the needs and capabilities of the various republic localities.

Judging by the work of one of the republic's largest main administrations, Glavtsentr (Main Administration of Oblast Industry in the North, West, and Central Regions of the RSFSR), Ministry of Construction Materials Industry RSFSR, which directs the operations of enterprises in 24 RSFSR oblasts and autonomous republics, the criticism failed to bring any results.

Since the beginning of the 1952 season, enterprises subordinate to this main administration have failed to supply building projects with 18.6 million common bricks, more than 20 million perforated and facing bricks, over one million pieces of roofing tile, and many other building materials. In the first 6 months of 1952, the oblast and kray construction materials industry administrations failed to produce about 100 million raw bricks. The Vladimirskaia and Gor'kovskaya oblast administrations fulfilled their quotas less than 50 percent. One of the main reasons for the poor performance of the RSFSR brick industry was the breakdowns and idleness of brick forming presses.

In June 1952 alone, presses in plants of Glavtsentr were idle 5,970 hours, or 17.7 percent of the time. In brick plants of Gor'kovskaya Oblast, presses were idle 41.8 percent of the time.

The main administration has been having very little contact with workers in the plants and has not been promoting energetic and qualified working personnel to responsible positions. Not one of the plants of the Ryazanskaya Oblast Administration of Construction Materials Industry has a chief engineer; the functions are carried out temporarily by personnel without any specialized training.

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The manufacture of new types of building materials is not very well organized. The main administration establishes quotas for its subordinate enterprises for the production of certain types of building materials, but the oblast administrations of construction materials industry have not been considering these quotas very important. For instance, the Ryazanskaya Oblast administration is supposed to supply 12 million perforated bricks, 3.5 million ceramic blocks, and 1.5 million facing bricks in 1952. However, these amounts are far from being reached, and oblast builders are forced to obtain ceramic blocks from the vicinity of Moscow. The Ivanovo Brick Plant No 4 started making multiple perforated brick, but it failed in its first attempt and then gave up the project.

Not only have Glavtsentr's enterprises failed to maintain previous production levels, but they have dropped below these levels. In the first 6 months of 1952, only 2.5 million hollow blocks were produced, as compared with 8.8 million produced in the first 6 months of 1951 and 12.2 million produced in the same period of 1950. Also, in the first 6 months of 1952, only one million perforated bricks were produced, as compared with 2.9 million and 5.7 million produced in the same periods of 1951 and 1950, respectively. As of August 1952, the annual quota for perforated brick production has been fulfilled only 0.8 percent [sic].

The building projects of Ryazanskaya Oblast have also been unable to obtain a sufficient supply of tile. Tile production in the oblast has been declining since mid-1949. During the first 6 months of 1952, only 123,000 pieces of tile were produced, as compared with 615,000 and the 880,000 pieces produced in similar periods of 1951 and 1950, respectively.

Glavtsentr has been maintaining that builders do not wish to use tile in building projects. If there have been any instances of this, they have been due to the poor quality of tile. The complaints directed at the Ivanovo Brick and Tile Plant No 3, in particular, have been quite justified.

Glavtsentr has not been giving much aid to local organizations to expand their production of building materials. Although rich deposits of limestone are found in Ryazanskaya Oblast, the Ryazanskaya Oblast Administration of Construction Materials Industry does not have any lime producing plant, and the material must be obtained from Moskovskaya Oblast.

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